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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,605	06/27/2003	Tsutomu Umehara	5000-5110	7610

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EXAMINER

RICHTER, SHELDON J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3748

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,605

Applicant(s)

UMEHARA ET AL.

Examiner

Sheldon J Richter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8, 12 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 9-11 and 13-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 Oct 2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 12 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Itoyama et al. Fig.1 of Itoyama et al discloses an apparatus for controlling recirculation of exhaust gas from an exhaust passage 8 of an engine 5 to an intake passage 4 of the engine 5, the apparatus comprising a recirculation passage 10 connecting the exhaust passage 8 to the intake passage 4; an EGR valve 9 arranged in the recirculation passage 10, wherein the EGR valve varies its opening degree to adjust the amount of exhaust gas recirculated from the exhaust passage 8 to the intake passage 4; and a controller 12 for controlling the EGR valve. With reference to the last limitation, for example in the last paragraph in claim 1, see Fig. 43 and the accompanying description in Itoyama et al.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 12 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Buckland et al. Fig.1 of Buckland et al discloses an apparatus for controlling recirculation of exhaust gas from an exhaust passage 28 of an engine 16 to an intake passage 26 of the engine 16, the apparatus comprising a recirculation passage 32 connecting the exhaust passage 28 to the intake passage 26; an EGR valve 34 arranged in the recirculation passage 32, wherein the EGR valve varies its opening degree to adjust the amount of exhaust gas recirculated from the exhaust

passage 28 to the intake passage 26; and a controller 12 for controlling the EGR valve. With reference to the last limitation, for example in the last paragraph in claim 1, see Fig. 2 and the accompanying description in Buckland et al.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

4. Claims 4, 9-11, 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Katashiba et al, Yoshida et al, Ishikawa et al, and Yokoyama et al. are cited to show the state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheldon J Richter whose telephone number is (703) 305-0475. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (703) 308-2623. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon J. Richter', written in a cursive style.

Sheldon J Richter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3748

SJR